

The past continuous tense (singular form)

We use the past continuous to describe actions in progress in the past. We commonly find this tense in stories when scenes are described.

When the subject of a sentence is singular, we use *was*.

When the subject of a sentence is singular, we form the past continuous tense with the auxiliary verb *was* + the *ing form* of the verb.

The princess was standing next to the lake.

Izcozauqui was visiting Tonacatecutl's garden.

Task 1: Describe what was happening in the palace the morning the prince met the princess.

1. The king _____ (hunt) in the woods.
2. The queen _____ (organize) a party.
3. One of the servants _____ (clean) the palace.
4. A woman _____ (cook) lunch.

Task 2: Complete the scene description with verbs from the box.

play try bark argue

It was a really stressful morning! The dog (1) _____ my sister (2) _____ with my mom, the neighbor (3) _____ his opera music at full volume and I (4) _____ to study for my chemistry exam. Suddenly...

3 The past continuous tense (plural form)

To describe actions in progress in the past using plural forms, we use *were*.

Two little elves were stitching the shoes.

To form negative sentences in singular or plural forms, we add *not*.

They were not (weren't) wearing any clothes.

He was not (wasn't) playing at home.

Task 1: Describe what the elves were doing with the clothes and shoes. Use the verbs in parentheses.

1. The elves _____ (put) on the new clothes and shoes.
2. They _____ (look) at themselves in the mirror.
3. They _____ (sing) and _____ (dance) around the room.